

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include Fig. 8, which was missing from the drawings. Also included are figures 7 and 9, to reflect corrections to part number 116.

Attachment: New Sheet
Replacement Sheets
Annotated sheets showing changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Election of Species

The Office considered the claims of the present application to be directed to patentably distinct species. Specifically, the Examiner required election of species A (claims 1-16), drawn to a ladder station supporting device, and species B (claims 17-24), drawn to an assembly machine for stacking blind slats, and species C (claim 25), drawn to a ladder station. During a telephone conversation on October 12, 2005, Mr. Robert Fish made a provisional election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species A, claims 1-6. Claims 17-25 are withdrawn.

Specification

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification and the drawing figures with respect to erroneous reference numerals and missing reference element, paragraphs 30, 32, 36, 41, and 48 have been replaced with the amended paragraphs correct minor editorial problems. The Examiner also objected to the use of TEFLON without referring to its generic name, PTFE.

Paragraph 30- Changed the reference numeral of bolt from 22 to 24.

Paragraph 32- Inserted "ladder-string 4" to reflect what's shown in the figures. Also inserted a period at the end of the paragraph.

Paragraph 36- Made note of registered trademark TEFLON and provided its generic name.

Paragraph 41- Changed the reference numeral of second set screw receiving side from 116 to 117.

Paragraph 48- Changed the reference numeral of bolt from 78 to 96.

Drawings

Figures 7 and 9 were objected to because reference character 116 was used to designate a second set screw receiving side and the second articulation bore. Figures 7 and 9 have been

amended. Reference character 116 now refers to second set articulation bore. Second set screw receiving side has been given the reference number 117.

In response to the Examiner's objections to the drawing figures, the following amendments were made.

Figures 7 and 9 are amended to change the reference numeral of second set screw receiving side from 116 to 117.

Figure 8 was missing from the original submission. The applicant hereby submits Figure 8.

The figures were also objected to for having reference character 4, but reference character 4 was not mentioned in the specification. The specification has been amended to refer reference character 4 to ladder-string.

35 USC 102(b)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Behn (U.S. Patent No. 4074897). The applicant respectfully disagrees. In view of allowable subject matters indicated by the Examiner in claims 2-8, claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of claim 3. New claim 26 has been added and includes limitations of claims 1 and 2.


Allowable Subject Matter

The applicant would like to thank the Examiner for noting that claims 2-8 contain allowable subject matter.

Request For Allowance

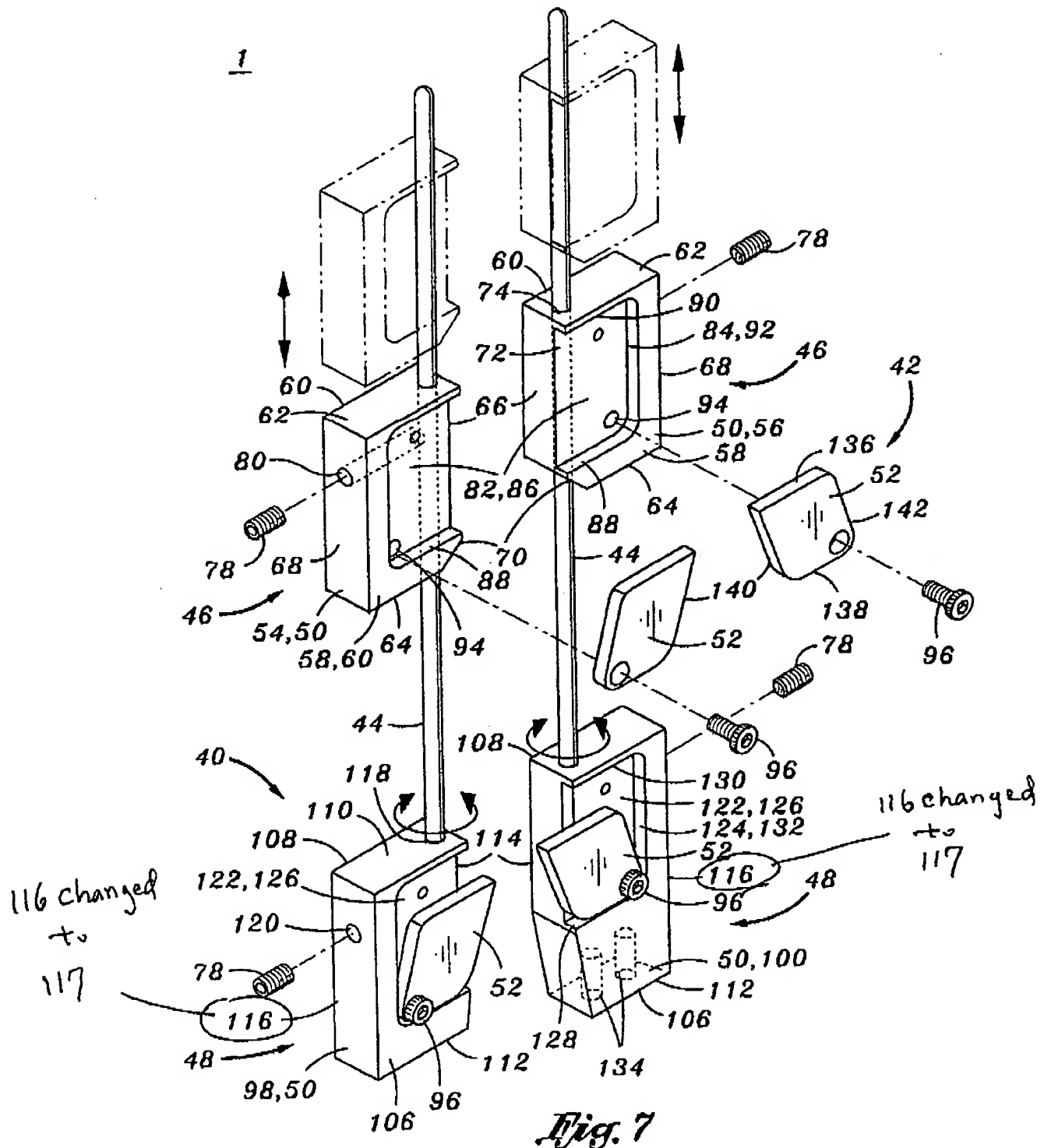
Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-16, and 26 should now be in condition for allowance as independent claims 1 and 26 include allowable subject matter indicted by the Examiner. The applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
RUTAN & TUCKER

By 
Anthony S. King
Registration No. 49,063

Rutan & Tucker
611 Anton Blvd., 14th Floor
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1931
Telephone (714) 641-5100
Fax (714) 546-9035

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Amend. dated Dec. 07, 2005
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